



Louis H. Bruni
County Judge

1000 Houston St. 3rd Floor
Laredo, Texas 78040

(956) 523-4600
Fax (956) 523-5065

WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 28, 2003

CONTACT: Raul Casso
(956) 523-4600

BILL ESTABLISHES RIO GRANDE WATER AUTHORITY

AUSTIN--The House today approved a measure providing for a regional water authority and a watermaster to administer the transport of privately owned water along the Rio Grande River, manage water drainage during flooding, and administer water diversions and reservoir releases from Amistad and Falcon reservoirs during times of drought.

County Judge Luis Bruni and Webb County commissioners supported the bill, SB 1902 by Lucio/Flores, creating the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA).

“The Rio Grande River is Webb County’s primary, if not only, source of water,” Bruni said. “It’s vital to our children’s future and our county and region’s economic well-being that we do a better job of managing and maximizing our limited water resources and at the same time encourage responsible development in areas prone to flooding, particularly near the river.”

A 15-member board of directors will govern the RGRWA, nine of who will be appointed by the governor based on balanced and local geographic interest. The remaining six members will be appointed one each by the member county commissioner courts.

The newly-created water authority, comprised of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy, Webb (excluding the corporate limits of the City of Laredo) and Zapata counties, also will monitor for activities that might present an imminent threat to public health, water quality or the environment. In addition, the bill authorizes a person to utilize the Rio Grande to transport privately owned water to the point of use or diversion.

“This bill will assist Webb County and our neighbors with managing the water we do have, while promoting responsible development along the river, particularly with respect to colonias,” Bruni said. “It is simply another tool we can use to ensure that our most precious natural resource, the Rio Grande River, is utilized in a responsible and efficient manner.”

###